

Serial No. 09/844,051

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 2001B035OATH/DECLARATION

New declarations for inventors William A. Weber and Walter R. Cade, who made handwritten corrections to the original declarations prior to signing them, are being submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully note that the handwritten items on the earlier declarations were initialed and accompanied by a contemporaneous dated signature.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

A
4. A process for the selective production of meta-diisopropylbenzene and para-diisopropylbenzene, said process comprising the step of contacting a feed containing cumene under disproportionation conditions with a catalyst comprising a molecular sieve having pores with a minimum cross-sectional dimension of at least 6 Angstrom to produce a disproportionation effluent containing benzene and a mixture of diisopropylbenzene isomers, wherein the feed is substantially free of benzene and the catalyst is essentially free of sulfided hydrogenation metal.

Please enter the following new claims:

A²
14. The process of claim 4, wherein said effluent, prior to any separation step, contains less than 1 wt% of n-propylbenzene, less than 5 wt% of triisopropylbenzenes, and less than 5 wt% of reaction products other than benzene and diisopropylbenzenes; and said effluent, prior to any separation step, contains less than 1% of ortho-diisopropylbenzene by weight of the total diisopropylbenzene content of said effluent.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein said effluent, prior to any separation step, has a meta-diisopropylbenzene to ortho-diisopropylbenzene ratio in excess of 50.